

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO USDA WASHDC PRIORITY
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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5652

FOR ADMINISTRATOR, FAS/USDA

STATE FOR NEA/INS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, IN
SUBJECT: VIISIT OF CHIEF MINISTER OF PUNJAB

1. PARKASH SINGH ABDAL, CHIEF MINISTER, STATE OF PUNJAB, AND ERSTWHILE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION FOR THE JANATA GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING A PRIVATE VISIT TO US APRIL 22-30. ACCOMPANYING HIM WILL BE MRS. BADAL AND MR. M.S GILL, HIS PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY. BADAL IS HIMSELF A FARMER, AND HIS STATE IS ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS IN INDIA. HE HOPES IN THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT TO BECOME ACQUANINTED WITH US AGRICULTURE, PARTICULARLY RESEARCH ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, AND SEE AMERICAN DAIRYING IN OPERATION. HE HAS REQUESTED USDA ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING CONTACTS AT TEXAS A AND M UNIVERSITY, BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER, AND TO SEE SOME DAIRY FARMS.

2. TENTATIVE ITINERARY: APRIL 22 ARRIVE NEW YORK ON AIR INDIA-111; VISIT BOSTON (HARVARD UNIVERSITY) APRIL 24; 25TH TO HOUSTON, TEXAS VIA DL-367 FROM LA GUARDIA ETA 1545; 26TH DRIVE TO TEXAS A AND M UNIVERSITY
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AND RETURN; 27TH TO WASHINGTON, D.C. NATIONAL AIRPORT VIA EA -136 ETA 2028; 28TH A.M. CALLS AT DEPTS. OF STATE AND AGRICULTURE, P.M. BELTSVILLE; 29TH CITY SIGHTSEEING AND VISIT DAIRY FARMS; 30TH FLY TO NEW YORK, DEPART ON AIR INDIA-116. ALL TICKETING WILL BE ARRANGED BY BADAL'S STAFF.

3. PLEASE REQUEST TEXAS A AND M UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE CAR AND DRIVER TO PICK PARTY UP IN HOUSTON ON THE 26TH, SPEND THE ENTIRE DAY VISITING UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FACILITIES, RETURNING TO HOUSTON THAT EVENING. WILL FLY FROM HOUSTON TO WASHINGTON, D.C. AFTERNOON OF 27TH.

4. UNFORTUNATELY, BADAL'S ONLY WEEKDAY IN WASHINGTON WILL BE FRIDAY, APRIL 28. WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE HIM AS EXTENSIVE A PROGRAM THAT DAY AS POSSIBLE, TO INCLUDE, WE WOULD HOPE, CALLS ON SENIOR OFFICIALS AT STATE AS WELL AS AGRICULTURE, A LUNCH HOSTED BY AGRICULTURE, AND AN AFTERNOON VISIT TO BARC. WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND AT AGRICULTURE, A LUNCH HOSTED BY AGRICULTURE, AND AN AFTERNOON VISIT TO BARC. WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND AT AGRICULTURE WOULD BE LATE MORNING/NOON APPOINTMENTS WITH THE SECRETARY AND/OR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES HATHAWAY AND CUTTER TO BE FOLLOWED BY A LUNCH AT WHICH ALLAN GRANT, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN FARM BUREAU, AND TOM HAMMER, AFBF WASHINGTON OFFICE MIGHT ALSO APPROPRIATELY BE INVITED. THEY MET THE MINISTER WHEN THEY WERE IN THE PUNJAB AND OFFERED TO ASSIST HIM IN HIS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO IMPORT US HOLSTEIN DAIRY CATTLE FOR HIS STATE. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE FOLLOWING DAY, SATURDAY APRIL 29, VISITS TO ONE OR TWO DAIRY FARMS IN THE WASHINGTON AREA COULD BE ARRANGED.

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5. PLEASE COORDINATE WITH STATE (NEA/INS) IN WORKING OUT PROGRAM AND LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF IT IS FEASIBLE. AS HIS SEPARATE MESSAGE TO SECRETARY BERGLAND WILL INDICATE, THE AMBASSADOR KNOWS BADAL WELL AND WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER HOSPITALITY AND ATTENTION CAN BE SHOWN HIM DURING HIS BRIEF US VISIT.

6. WE ARE SENDING SEPARATE TELS TO STATE (NEA/INS) AND ICA ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM, WHICH WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU FOR INFO AND COORDINATION.

7. BADAL'S NEW YORK CONTACT IS MR. TEJINDER S. KAHLOH, SIKH CULTURAL SOCIETY, 95-30 118TH STREET, RICHMOND HILL, NEW YORK. OFFICE TEL: 212-846-9144. HOME TEL: 212-969-8868.
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